(a) whether Government are aware that many atomic power projects all over the world have resulted into serious radiation leakage even in developed countries;

(b) what are the atomic power projects in country which ever have any accident and what was the outcome of such accident; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to close all atomic power projects in the country like similar decision taken by many developed countries due to inherent risk of radiation in the environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Ever since nuclear power stations started operating in the 1950s, there were only two accidents world-wide which led to serious leakage of radioactivity. The first one occurred in 1979 at the Three-Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant in the United States and the other one in 1986 at the Chernoby l Nuclear Power Plant in the erstwhile Soviet Union. These accidents were rated at level 5 and level 7 respectively as per the classification of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). IAEA classifies nuclear events into a scale of 1 to 7 in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES). Levels 1—3 are termed only incidents and levels 4—7 are termed accidents. The accident at Three-Mile Island resulted in severe damage to the reactor core. However, there was no loss of life and the off-site release of radioactivity was limited. The accident at Chernoby l had wide-spread environmental and health impacts. Thirty-one people died in the course of the accident or soon after and another 137 were treated for acute radiation effects.

(b) There has been no nuclear accident in Indian nuclear power plants ever since the first power reactor was commissioned at Tarapur in 1969.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such plan. In fact, more nuclear power plants are currently under construction and commissioning.

Shifting of people from Devakar Village of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka

2333. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Devakar village of Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka, where the Kaiga Power Project is located, are required to be shifted elsewhere;

(b) whether the State Government had requested the authorities for granting Rs. 2.00 Crore for aquiring the lands in Devakar Village and for shifting and rehabilitating the affected people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Devakar village is located on the left bank of river Kali in the Western Ghats, towards east of Kaiga project and Upstream of Kadra Dam. Originally, Devakar village comprised to two small hamlets. The hamlet falling within the exclusion zone of Kaiga project was acquired and rehabilitation thereof has been completed. The second hamlet is beyond the acquisition zone of Kaiga Atomic Power project. The Karnata Power Corporation Ltd., (KPCL) has acquired all the land which is submerged consequent to the construction of Kadra Dam, but in regard to the second hamlet of Devakar, the original road access is no more available due to water logging and the public have to use boats. In a meeting held on 11th November, 1997 under the Chairmanship of the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, it was proposed that NPCIL contribute Rs. 2 crore for acquisition of this area and rehabilitation of the villagers and that KPCIL would undertake the responsibility of implementation of the rehabilitation package. NPCIL has agreed to contribute Rs. 2 crore for acquisition and rehabilitation as a gesture of good will and as a special case even though it is not connected with the Atomic Power Project.

Safety measures at Rawatbhata Power Plant

2334. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 786 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd March, 2000 and state what safety measures have been taken to avoid serious nuclear leakage resulting in destruction of lives and property in large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): This Atomic Power reactor has all the features in place to ensure safe operation. These include redundancy and diversity of all safety systems, double countainment, exclusion zone and availability of qualified and trained personnel to operate the plant as per technical specifications approved by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.